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The Honorable Ricardo Hinojosa
The United States Sentencing Commission
One Columbus Circle, N.E.
Ste. 2-500 South Lobby
Washington, D.C. 20002-8002

Dear Chairman Hinojosa:

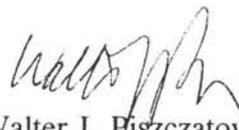
As a concerned citizen, I urge the United States Sentencing Commission to make retroactive its proposed amendment to the crack sentencing guidelines if the amendment goes into effect on November 1, 2007.

Making the crack amendment retroactive will ensure that thousands of individuals currently serving unjustifiably harsh sentences for crack have a chance to benefit from the sentence reductions. To give the benefit of this new amendment to some but not to others, based on the date they were sentenced, is singly unfair.

The amendment will also help repair the image of the sentencing guidelines in communities of color. The impression that our guidelines discriminate on the basis of race is rooted in the disparity in sentencing between crack and powder cocaine, which has resulted in longer sentences for many minority defendants. In the past, the Commission made amendments affecting LSD, marijuana, and Percocet retroactive. Each of these changes affected largely white offenders. By making the crack amendment retroactive, the Commission will send a powerful message that its pursuit of justice is color-blind.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Walter J. Piszczatowski

WJP/fvs

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